

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D.: TU2025LS001

Name of Service: Na Blatha Beaga

Address of Service: Shanahoe Community Centre, Shanahoe, Co. Laois, R32 E3FR

Email Address: sarahodea17@hotmail.com

Name of Proposed Registered Provider: Sarah O 'Dea

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|----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Type of Proposed Service: | Full Day Care | <input type="checkbox"/> | Part-Time | <input type="checkbox"/> | Drop-In | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Sessional | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Childminding | <input type="checkbox"/> | Temporary | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Proposed service type: Sessional

Proposed Number of Children: 22

Outcome of the F06 Inspection
(e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)
18 children can be currently accommodated on a sessional basis between the hours of 09:00 and 12:00 based on the floor space and sanitary accommodation available in the premises.

Registered service: Registered Sessional Service for 18 children

Date of Inspection: 1 7 0 7 2 0 2 5

Inspection Undertaken by: K. Murphy

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Primary Care Centre, Church Avenue, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

Rationale for Inspection

Proposed New Service

Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office

Registration Status: Registered Sessional Service for 18 children

Date of Registration: 30th July 2025

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(D) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

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| Description of Service | Na Blatha Beaga is proposing to operate a sessional service between the hours of 09:00 and 12:00 on a Monday to Friday basis. An application was submitted by the proposed registered provider to the Tusla registration office seeking registration for a sessional service. |
| Premises | The Early Years' Service is proposing to operate in a single storey community premises. A pre-school room (sensory room), a large hall, sanitary accommodation and a kitchen are provided. An outdoor play area is attached to the side of the premises. Onsite parking and set down facilities are available. The service is rural in its location in the village of Shanahoe, County Laois. |
| Staffing | On 17 July 2025, the proposed registered provider facilitated the inspection. |
| Methodology | The inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under four themes; Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the Child, Safety and Premises. The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the inspection report and taken into consideration when making a decision in relation to the registering application. The Inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including: clarity; completeness; and compliance with administrative and legal processes. The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body. |
| Acknowledgement | The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider and staff member who were present on the day of the inspection. |

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and Recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that—

(a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

The proposed service has made provision for a named designated person in charge with another named staff member able to deputise as required.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 11 -Staffing Levels

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

An adequate number of adults will work directly with the children. Provision is in place to meet the necessary adult to child ratios for children proposing to attend on a sessional basis. The registered provider and another named adult will be working in the service.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that—

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

(4) Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

Suitable and adequate play and work equipment are provided indoors and outdoors which incorporate areas with toys and equipment for arts and crafts, home corners, interest areas, sensory and tabletop activities.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

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| | <p>(b) Soft furnishings provide suitable and adequate rest facilities within the service.</p> <p>(4) An outdoor area is attached to the side of the service which can be accessed directly via a door from the pre-school room (sensory room). A high-level wire fence secures the perimeter of the designated outdoor play area. A variety of stationary play equipment and outdoor toys are available.</p> |
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Part V – Care of Children in Pre-School Services

Regulation 22 – Food and Drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

During term time parents will provide the snacks for children attending on a sessional basis. Refrigerated storage facilities are available in kitchen.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

A registered provider shall ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of a pre-school child attending the service and that the environment of the service is safe.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

Provision is in place for safety checks to be conducted daily for the indoor environment and the outdoor play area.

Cleaning agents are stored out of the potential reach of children.

Window blind cords in the premises are secured appropriately.

Floor mats have non-slip backing.

Self-illuminating emergency lighting and signage is in place throughout the premises.

A designated fire assembly point is located to the side of the premises.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 25 – First Aid

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children—

(a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and

(b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

Evidence was available which confirmed that the proposed registered provider and the staff member in the service had completed First Aid Response (FAR) training.

(2)(a)(b)

A first aid box was stocked with sufficient supplies for the number of children proposing to attend and located in prominent location on the main corridor out of the reach of children but readily available to adults.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of—
- (a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and
 - (b) the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

Provision has been made to carry out and record monthly fire drills in the proposed pre-school service.

(b)

Records were available for the service in respect of firefighting equipment which was serviced in November 2024 and the smoke alarms in the premises which were serviced in June 2025.

(4)

A notice of the procedure to be following in the event of a fire was displayed in various locations throughout the premises.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

There was evidence of current insurance cover for the number of children proposing to attend the service. The expiry date noted as 27 March 2026.

An insurance quotation was submitted to the registration team prior to this inspection. The registered provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 – Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are—

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated,*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(a)

The main premises which have been in existence for several years has been renovated. The premises visually appears to be of sound and stable structure.

(b)

An entrance lobby is in place with the main door to the pre-school service secured by a locked door. In respect of the pre-school room (sensory room) unauthorised access to the service and unsupervised exit of children from the service is controlled.

In respect of the hall unauthorised access to the service is controlled.

A doorbell is in place and visitors can be viewed from a side window adjacent to the entrance door.

(c)

Openable windows provide both natural light and ventilation throughout the service. Wall vents are provided throughout the premises. The light fittings were covered and fully operational to provide adequate artificial light throughout the service.

Wall mounted radiators are in place throughout the service.

Records indicated that the oil-fired central heating system was serviced in December 2024. An environmental temperature of 22 degrees Celsius was recorded in the service. Wastewater and sewage are removed from the premises by means of a group water scheme. Potable drinking water is supplied to the premises by means of a group water scheme. Water testing documentation is available for review.

(d)

The floors and walls were in a good state of repair and maintenance. A cleaning schedule was available for the service and records were in place. A pest control system is in place. Waste and refuse are to be removed from the premises daily by the proposed registered provider.

(e)

In respect of eighteen children proposed to be accommodated. Two water closets and two wash hand basins have been provided in the sanitary accommodation situated on the main corridor.

In addition, one water closet and one wash hand basin for children are also available but not currently designated for use.

In separate sanitary facilities one water closet and one wash hand basin are designated for staff use.

All sanitary accommodation is ventilated by means of natural ventilation in the form of openable windows.

All sanitary accommodation is stocked with a sufficient supply of liquid soap and paper hand towel. All wash hand basins are plumbed with an instantaneous supply of

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

hot and cold water. A temperature of 41 degrees Celsius was recorded at the wash hand basins.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.

(3) A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

Adequate floor space for the work, play and movement of children proposing to attend is available.

(3)

The space measurements recorded for the pre-school room (sensory room) provide an area of approximately 33 m² ensures that the minimum amount of clear floor space is available in respect of 18 children to attend on a sessional basis. The space measurements recorded for the large hall provide an area of approximately 96 m².